

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ion exchange material comprising a water superabsorbent polyurethane foam having an ion exchange medium contained therein.
2. (Previously Amended) An ion exchange material according to claim 1 wherein the ion exchange medium is selected for sorbing metal ions from a solution and/or slurry.
3. (Previously Amended) An ion exchange material according to claim 1 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of a bead, resin, fibre, foam, or liquid.
4. (Previously Amended) An ion exchange material according to claim 1 wherein the ion exchange medium is in liquid form and is imbibed into a solid sorbent for embedding into the superabsorbent polyurethane foam.
5. (Previously Amended) An ion exchange material according to claim 1 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of an emulsion or suspension for imbibing into the superabsorbent polyurethane.
6. (Currently Amended) A process for the extraction of metal anions and cations from solutions and/or slurries including the steps of
 - (a) contacting a metal ion-containing solution with an ion exchange material comprising a water superabsorbent polyurethane foam having an ion exchange medium contained therein;
 - (b) separating the ion exchange material from the solution and/or slurry; and
 - (C) recovering the sorbed metal ions from the ion exchange medium.
7. (Previously Amended) An ion exchange material according to claim 2 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of a bead, resin, fibre, foam, or liquid.

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8. (Previously Added) An ion exchange material according to claim 2 wherein the ion exchange medium is in liquid form and is imbibed into a solid sorbent for embedding into the superabsorbent polyurethane foam.

9. (Previously Added) An ion exchange material according to claim 3 wherein the ion exchange medium is in liquid form and is imbibed into a solid sorbent for embedding into the superabsorbent polyurethane foam.

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cont.
10. (Previously Added) An ion exchange material according to claim 2 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of an emulsion or suspension for imbibing into the superabsorbent polyurethane.

11. (Previously Added) An ion exchange material according to claim 3 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of an emulsion or suspension for imbibing into the superabsorbent polyurethane.

12. (Previously Added) An ion exchange material according to claim 4 wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of an emulsion or suspension for imbibing into the superabsorbent polyurethane.
